Cable Text:
UNCLASSIFIED
TELEGRAM   January 10, 2002

To: .   SECSTATE WASHDC - ROUTINE

Action: EB

From: AMEMBASSY CARACAS (CARACAS 50 - ROUTINE)

TAGS: ECON, EAGR, PINR, PREL, VE

Captions: SENSITIVE, SENSITIVE

Subject: WHO'S GUARDING THE LANDS?

Ref: CARACAS 3727

1. (U) Summary: During Pres. Chavez's latest "Alo Presidente"
radio program on January 6, he named his brother as the new
president of the National Land Institute. [   ]   **B1**
[   ] End summary.

IAN Becomes INT
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2. (U) The fifty-two year old National Agrarian Institute
(Instituto Agrario Nacional, IAN) is being transformed under the
recently approved Land Law into the National Land Institute
(Instituto Nacional de Tierras, INT).   This new entity will have
greater responsibilities for establishing land titles and
tenancy, determining if land is productive or not, and will issue
certificates designating different grades of productive land.
The INT will also be charged with beginning procedures for
expropriation of unproductive lands under the Land Law.

3. (U) During the Chavez administration the first president of
IAN was Julio Mora Contreras, who held the position for a year.
Contreras had a background in the agricultural sector and strong
ties to producer groups.   He was replaced by General Wilfredo
Silva, who will leave the position after a ten-month tenure.
During his term, Silva signed over more than 2,000 property land
titles to small farmers and was strongly criticized by the cattle
ranchers and producers associations for his actions.

B1

HRINAK

Additional Addressees:
None

cc:

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

Distribution:

TED0457
ACTION EB-00

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R 102131Z JAN 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4469
INFO USDA FAS WASHDC 1132
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS CARACAS 000050

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ECON, EAGR, PINR, PREL, VE
SUBJECT: WHO'S GUARDING THE LANDS?

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED, PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY

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End Cable Text

Brian R Naranjo 01/11/2002 09:29:40 AM From DB/Inbox: Brian R Naranjo